

## REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application and stand rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103 over various combinations of Marrast et al. (U.S. Patent number 3,926,257) Arfaei et al. (U.S. Patent number 5,348,583) and commercial documentation relating to PolarSet®. Claim 1 and 14 are amended and claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice. New claims 16 through 20 are added. Applicants' invention is useful when foamed or not foamed.

Applicants note that the '257 patent teaches the use of foam within the pores of the cement and advantageously the use of foaming surfactants. The '257 patent teaches its set acceleration (col. 1, line 67, col. 2, line 2) is necessarily in a foamed slurry. In contrast, the '583 patent is directed to cement for use in concrete in the construction and building industry where binding to reinforcing steel is a primary objective. Furthermore, the '583 patent does not suggest that the admixture described therein would be applicable in a foamed slurry. Therefore, it would not be obvious for one skilled in the art of wellbore cements to apply the '583 patent to a foamed wellbore slurry.

With respect to claim 14, applicants note that the naphthalene sulfonate listed in Table 3 of the '583 patent is a component of the set-accelerating admixture and not separate additive as claimed in the present application. Applicants further note that the PolarSet® Product Information referenced by the examiner discourages mixing PolarSet® with other admixtures before they enter the concrete.

Applicants intend this paper to be a full response to the office action dated April 30, 2004. It is submitted that the claims now pending in this application are allowable. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and claims and its early allowance. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephone interview, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 281-285-4791. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 04-1579 (56.0615).

Respectfully submitted,



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